

Fees pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (H.R. 4818).

FEE TRANSMITTAL

for FY 2007

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) 510.00

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/084,773
Filing Date	February 26, 2002
First Named Inventor	Paul Gothard Knutson
Examiner Name	Justin E. Shepard
Art Unit	2623
Attorney Docket No.	PU020045

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

CUSTOMER NUMBER: 24498

☐ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money Order ☐ None ☐ Other (please identify): _____

☒ Deposit Account: Deposit Account Number **07-0832** Deposit Account Name: **THOMSON LICENSING LLC**

For the above-identified deposit account, the Director is hereby authorized to: (check all that apply)

☒ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee

☒ Charge any additional fee(s) or underpayments of fee(s) under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 ☒ Credit any overpayments

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FEE CALCULATION (All the fees below are due upon filing or may be subject to a surcharge.)

1. BASIC FILING, SEARCH, AND EXAMINATION FEES

Application Type	FILING FEES		SEARCH FEES		EXAMINATION FEES		Fees Paid (\$)
	Small Entity	Fee (\$)	Small Entity	Fee (\$)	Small Entity	Fee (\$)	
Utility	300	150	500	250	200	100	
Design	200	100	100	50	130	65	
Plant	200	100	300	150	160	80	
Reissue	300	150	500	250	600	300	
Provisional	200	100	0	0	0	0	

2. EXCESS CLAIM FEES

Fee Description

Each claim over 20 (including Reissues)

Each independent claim over 3 (including Reissues)

Multiple dependent claims

Total Claims **Extra Claims** **Fee (\$)** **Fee Paid (\$)**

_____ - 20 or HP = _____ x _____ = _____

HP = highest number of total claims paid for, if greater than 20.

Independent Claims **Extra Claims** **Fee (\$)** **Fee Paid (\$)**

_____ - 3 or HP = _____ x _____ = _____

HP = highest number of independent claims paid for, if greater than 3.

Small Entity

Fee (\$)	Fee (\$)
50	25
200	100
360	180
Multiple Dependent Claims	
Fee (\$)	Fee Paid (\$)
_____	_____

3. APPLICATION SIZE FEE

If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper (excluding electronically filed sequence or computer listings under 37 CFR 1.52(e)), the application size fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).

Total Sheets **Extra Sheets** **Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof** **Fee (\$)** **Fee Paid (\$)**

_____ - 100 = _____ / 50 = _____ (round up to a whole number) x _____ = _____

4. OTHER FEE(S)

Non-English Specification, \$130 fee (no small entity discount)

Other (e.g., late filing surcharge): **APPEAL BRIEF - \$510.00**

Fees Paid (\$)

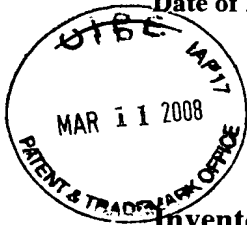
\$510.00

SUBMITTED BY

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CUSTOMER NO. 24498
Serial No.: 10/084,773
Notice of Appeal dated: 01/22/08
Date of Appeal Brief: 03/05/08

PATENT
PU020045



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

Inventor(s) : PAUL GOTHARD KNUTSON ET AL.
Serial No. : 10/084,773
Filed : February 26, 2002
Title : SATELLITE TELEVISION SYSTEM GROUND STATION
HAVING WIDEBAND MULTI-CHANNEL LNB
CONVERTER/TRANSMITTER ARCHITECTURE WITH
CONTROLLED UPLINK TRANSMISSION
Examiner : Justin E. Shepard
Art Unit : 2623

APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop: Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

03/12/2008 CNEGA1 00000000 070832 10004773
01 FC:1402 510.00 DA

May It Please The Honorable Board:

This is Appellants' Brief on Appeal from the rejection of claims 1 – 15. Please charge the \$510.00 fee for filing this Brief to Deposit Account No. 07-0832. Appellants waive an Oral Hearing for this appeal.

Please charge any additional fee or credit overpayment to the above-indicated Deposit Account. Enclosed is a single copy of the Brief.

Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in a postage paid envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Appeal Briefs - Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Signature Patricia M. Fedorowycz Date: March 7, 2008
Patricia M. Fedorowycz

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest of Application Serial No. 10/084,773 is the Assignee of record:

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FRANCE

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are currently, and have been, no related Appeals or Interferences regarding Application Serial No. 10/084,773 known to the undersigned attorney.

III. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 are rejected and the rejection of claims 1-15 is appealed.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

All amendments were entered and are reflected in the claims included in Appendix I.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

This summary sets forth exemplary reference characters and pages and line numbers in the specification where an embodiment of each separately argued claim is illustrated or described. The identification of reference characters and pages and line numbers does not constitute a representation that any claim element is limited to the embodiment illustrated at the reference character or described in the referenced portion of the specification.

Independent claim 1 claims an outdoor unit for a satellite television ground system comprising: downlink circuitry operative to receive a satellite television signal from a satellite, frequency lock to the satellite television signal, process the satellite television signal, and provide the processed satellite television signal to an indoor unit of the satellite television ground system; and uplink circuitry operative to receive an uplink signal from the indoor unit, process the received uplink signal, and transmit the processed uplink signal to the satellites only when said downlink circuitry is simultaneously receiving said satellite

television signal from said satellite and is frequency locked to said satellite television signal from said satellite. (page 7, lines 17-29, page 8, lines 18-25, and page 24, lines 6-7)

Dependent claim 2 includes all of the features of claim 1, along with the additional feature that the uplink circuitry is further operative to receive an uplink control signal from the indoor unit indicating said downlink circuitry being frequency locked to the satellite television signals. (page 11, 6-9, page 24, lines 3-7)

Dependent claim 3 includes all of the features of claim 2, along with the additional feature that the uplink control signal comprises an uplink data signal and an uplink oscillator signal. (page 24, lines 3-9)

Dependent claim 4 includes all of the features of claim 3, along with the additional feature that the uplink oscillator signal is derived from the satellite television signal. (page 24, lines 3-9)

Dependent claim 5 includes all of the features of claim 4, along with the additional feature that the uplink oscillator signal is derived from a frequency conversion error data from the satellite television signal. (page 23, lines 11-14)

Independent claim 6 claims an outdoor unit for a satellite television ground system comprising: means for receiving a satellite television signal from a satellite; means for processing the satellite television signal; means for providing the processed satellite television signal to an indoor unit of the satellite television ground system; means for receiving an uplink signal from the indoor unit; means for processing the received uplink signal; and means for providing the processed uplink signal to said satellite only when said means for receiving is receiving the satellite television signal from said satellite and is frequency locked to said satellite television signal from said satellite. (page 7, lines 17-29, page 8, lines 18-25, and page 24, lines 6-7)

Dependent claim 7 includes all of the features of claim 6, along with additional means for receiving an uplink control signal indicating a frequency locked condition to signals from the satellite from the indoor unit. (page 11, 6-9, page 24, lines 3-7)

Dependent claim 8 includes all of the features of claim 7, along with the additional feature that the uplink control signal comprises an uplink data signal and an uplink oscillator signal. (page 24, lines 3-9)

Dependent claim 9 includes all of the features of claim 8, along with the additional feature that the uplink oscillator signal is derived from the satellite television signal. (page 24, lines 3-9)

Dependent claim 10 includes all of the features of claim 9, along with the additional feature that the uplink oscillator signal is derived from a frequency conversion error data from the satellite television signal. (page 24, lines 3-9)

Independent claim 11 claims, in an outdoor unit of a satellite television ground system, a method of providing an uplink communication with a television broadcasting satellite comprising the steps of: receiving a satellite television signals from a satellite; processing the satellite television signal; providing the processed satellite television signal to an indoor unit of the satellite television ground system; receiving an uplink signal from the indoor unit; processing the received uplink signal; and providing the processed uplink signal to the satellite while simultaneously receiving the satellite television signal from said satellite and receiving an uplink control signal indicating a frequency locked condition to said satellite television signal from said satellite. (page 7, lines 17-29, page 8, lines 18-25, and page 24, lines 6-7)

Dependent claim 12 has been canceled.

Dependent claim 13 includes all of the features of claim 11, along with the additional feature that the uplink control signal comprises an uplink data signal and an uplink oscillator signal. (page 24, lines 3-9)

Dependent claim 14 includes all of the features of claim 13, along with the additional feature that the uplink oscillator signal is derived from the satellite television signal. (page 24, lines 3-9)

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Dependent claim 15 includes all of the features of claim 14, along with the additional feature that the uplink oscillator signal is derived from frequency conversion error data from the satellite television signal. (page 24, lines 3-9)

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-9, and 11-14 as being unpatentable over Saunders, in view of Ortega, in view of Okamura under 35 USC 103(a).

The Examiner has rejected claims 5, 10 and 15 as being unpatentable over Saunders, in view of Ortega, in view of Okamura, and further in view of Kwentus under 35 USC 103(a).

VII. ARGUMENT

**Rejection of Claims 1-4, 6-9, and 11-14 Under 35 USC 103(a)
Over Saunders (US6,091,703) in view of Ortega (US2002/0087991) in view of Okamura
(JP 03097385 A).**

CLAIMS 1-4

The invention as recited in claim 1 is not rendered obvious by the combination of Saunders, Ortega, and Okamura proposed by the Examiner, as the proposed combination would not result in all of the limitations of claim 1.

In the present case, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, as the cited references, even when combined, fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1.

The invention of claim 1 is an outdoor unit for a satellite television ground system comprising: downlink circuitry operative to receive a satellite television signal from a satellite, frequency lock to the satellite television signal, process the satellite television signal, and provide the processed satellite television signal to an indoor unit of the satellite television ground system; and uplink circuitry operative to receive an uplink signal from the indoor unit, process the received uplink signal, and transmit the processed uplink signal to the satellites only when said downlink circuitry is simultaneously receiving said satellite television signal from said satellite and is frequency locked to said satellite television signal from said satellite.

The Examiner proposes a combination of Saunders with the satellite television signals of Ortega and the simultaneous transmission and reception of Okamura. (Office Action, pages 2-3) However, none of Saunders, Ortega, or Okamura disclose that the uplink signal is conditioned on the simultaneous reception and frequency locking of a downstream signal as taught by the present invention as recited in claim 1. As these limitations are nowhere found in the cited references, the rejection is improper.

The present invention, as recited by claim 1, teaches a system which may simultaneously receive and transmit signals to and from a satellite. The invention conditions the transmission of a satellite signal with the simultaneous reception of a signal from the same satellite. The invention confirms the simultaneous reception of a signal from the satellite with a frequency lock condition on the receiving circuitry. The intent of this invention is to confirm that a satellite antenna is actually tracking a satellite before transmitting a signal, as described in the specification at page 4, lines 21-25.

In contrast, Saunders describes teaches a system wherein “before transmitting, the user terminal monitors a downlink beach broadcast by the satellite to acquire initial timing information.” (Col. 2, lines 52-57) This initial timing information is then used to generate a common symbol transmit rate for the uplink data in the uplink channel. (Col. 6, lines 6-9) Only after the common symbol transmit rate is established, the system of Saunders is ready to transmit the uplink channels to the satellite. Saunders does not teach or suggest that the uplink signal is conditioned on the simultaneous reception and frequency locking of a downstream signal as taught by the present invention as recited in claim 1.

Examiner points to Saunders column 4, lines 25-31 as disclosing transmission of “the processed uplink signal to the satellites only when said downlink circuitry is receiving said satellite signal from said satellite and is frequency locked to said satellite signal from said satellite.” However, in that passage, Saunders discloses only the recovery of a symbol clock in the downlink beam and synchronization of internal symbol clocks to the symbol clock reference provided for that uplink beam in the downlink beam. Saunders disclosure of synchronization of clocks is not a disclosure of conditional uplink based upon simultaneous reception and frequency locking of a downstream signal as taught by the present invention as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, Saunders addresses the problem of simultaneous uplink by a plurality of user stations to a single satellite using CDMA techniques. In contrast, the present invention describes selective activation of the uplink during periods where locking of a downstream signal has been achieved from one of a possible plurality of LEO or MEO satellites, as described in the specification on page 2, lines 1-10.

Ortega also fails to teach this limitation. In contrast, Ortega teaches a “system and method of common synchronisation for bursts transmitted over an uplink connection in an integrated multispot satellite communication system (S) in a multimedia broadcasting network for setting up bi-directional communication with a satellite with return channel. The common burst synchronisation (4) is produced in such a way that the transmission rate in the downlink direction (P2; U2; C2) from the satellite is a whole multiple of the network clock reference.” (Ortega Abstract) Examiner relies on Ortega for disclosure of a system wherein the satellite signals are satellite television signals. (Office Action page 3, paragraph 3) Ortega does not teach or suggest that the uplink signal is conditioned on the simultaneous reception and frequency locking of a downstream signal as taught by the present invention as recited in claim 1.

Okamura also fails to teach this limitation. In contrast, Okamura teaches a system that will “simultaneously execute two-way communication for interconnection through a satellite by mixing received communication carriers from the transmitting side and the receiving side of a picture signal as keeping a prescribed level difference, and transmitting the mixed communication carrier toward, at least, the transmitting side and the receiving side of the picture signal” and where a “demodulated OW carrier in the antenna input of a picture signal transmitting station is sent intermittently only during the first half of a horizontal scanning period, and on the other hand, the demodulated OW carrier in the antenna input of a picture signal receiving station is sent continuously by an OW carrier level about 10 db lower than the OW carrier level at the picture signal transmitting station.” (Okamura Abstract) Examiner relies on Okamura for disclosure of a system which simultaneously transmits and receives data. (Office Action page 3, paragraph 7) Okamura does not discuss suggest that the uplink signal is conditioned on the simultaneous reception and frequency locking of a downstream signal as taught by the present invention as recited in claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1, and it is submitted that they are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

In addition to the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1, claim 2-4 are not rendered obvious by the combination of Saunders, Ortega, and Okamura. Claim 2 recites the additional limitation of an uplink control signal from the indoor unit indicating said downlink circuitry being frequency locked to the satellite television signals. Examiner points to Saunders column 4, lines 61-62 as disclosing uplink circuitry operative to receive and uplink control signal. The cited passage, however, discloses only the monitoring of the downlink beam for timing control information. It does not disclose a control signal indicative of the downlink circuitry being locked.

Claim 3 recites the additional limitation where the uplink control signal comprises an uplink data signal and an uplink oscillator signal. Examiner points to Saunders column 5, lines 37-38 as disclosing an uplink data signal and an uplink oscillator signal. The cited passage, however, discloses a time flywheel establishing a synchronization word time reference for a terminal. It does not disclose an uplink control signal comprising an uplink data signal and an uplink oscillator signal.

Claim 4 recites the additional limitation where the uplink oscillator signal is derived from the satellite television signal. Examiner points to Saunders column 5, lines 5-7 as disclosing an outdoor unit wherein the uplink oscillator signal is derived from one of the satellite television signals. The cited passage, however, discloses only that the timing control information in the downlink beam includes a synchronization word and an inherent symbol clock reference. The passage does not disclose the uplink oscillator signal being derived from the satellite television signal.

CLAIMS 6-9

Claim 6 is an independent apparatus claim describing an outdoor unit for a satellite television ground system comprising: means for receiving a satellite television signal from a satellite; means for processing the satellite television signal; means for providing the processed satellite television signal to an indoor unit of the satellite television ground system; means for receiving an uplink signal from the indoor unit; means for processing the received uplink signal; and means for providing the processed uplink signal to said satellite only when said means for receiving is receiving the satellite television signal from said satellite and is frequency locked to said satellite television signal from said satellite. (page 7, lines 17-29, page 8, lines 18-25, and page 24, lines 6-7)

The Examiner has not, in either Official Action, noted any specific portion of Saunders, Ortega, and Okamura that teaches the limitations of claim 6. For reasons similar to those noted above with respect to claim 1, the limitation of means for providing the processed uplink signal to said satellite only when said means for receiving is receiving the satellite television signal from said satellite and is frequency locked to said satellite television signal from said satellite is not taught in any of Saunders, Ortega, and Okamura. Consequently, the proposed combination does not teach all of the limitations of the method of claim 6 and the rejection is improper.

With regard to claim 6, Examiner only stated that “[c]laims 6 and 11 are rejected on the same ground as claim 1.” (Office Action page 4, paragraph 3) Claim 6 contains substantially the same limitations as claim 1 expressed in “means” form. As such, the arguments presented above with regard to claim 1 apply here. None of Saunders, Ortega, or Okamura disclose that the uplink signal is conditioned on the simultaneous reception and frequency locking of a downstream signal, nor means for providing the processed uplink signal to said satellite only when said means for receiving is receiving the satellite television signal from said satellite and is frequency locked to said satellite television signal from said satellite as taught by the present invention as recited in claim 6. Saunders describes synchronization with the downlink signal, but not that providing the uplink is conditional on simultaneous reception and frequency lock of the downlink signal.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 6 is allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 7-10 depend from claim 6, and it is submitted that they are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 6 is allowable.

Furthermore, Examiner rejected claims 7-9 on the same grounds as claim 2-4. As such, the additional arguments provided above with regard to Examiner's rejection of claims 2-4 also apply to claim 7-9.

CLAIM 11-14

Claim 11 is an independent method claim describing a method of providing an uplink communication with a television broadcasting satellite comprising the steps of: receiving a satellite television signals from a satellite; processing the satellite television signal; providing the processed satellite television signal to an indoor unit of the satellite television ground system; receiving an uplink signal from the indoor unit; processing the received uplink signal; and providing the processed uplink signal to the satellite while simultaneously receiving the satellite television signal from said satellite and receiving an uplink control signal indicating a frequency locked condition to said satellite television signal from said satellite.

With regard to claim 11, Examiner only stated that "[c]laims 6 and 11 are rejected on the same ground as claim 1." (Office Action page 4, paragraph 3) Claim 11 contains substantially the same limitations as claim 1 expressed in method form. As such, the arguments presented above with regard to claim 1 apply here. None of Saunders, Ortega, or Okamura disclose that the uplink signal is conditioned on the simultaneous reception and frequency locking of a downstream signal, nor providing the processed uplink signal to the satellite while simultaneously receiving the satellite television signal from said satellite and receiving an uplink control signal indicating a frequency locked condition to said satellite television signal from said satellite as taught by the present invention as recited in claim 11. Saunders describes synchronization with the downlink signal, but not that providing the uplink is conditional on simultaneous reception and frequency lock of the downlink signal.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 11 is allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 13-15 depend from claim 11, and it is submitted that they are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 11 is allowable.

Furthermore, Examiner rejected claims 13-14 on the same grounds as claim 3-4. As such, the additional arguments provided above with regard to Examiner's rejection of claims 3-4 also apply to claim 13-14.

**Rejection of Claims 5, 10, and 15 under 35 USC 103(a) over
Saunders (US6,091,703) in view of Ortega (US2002/0087991) in view of Okamura (JP
03097385 A) and further in view of Kwentus (US2002/0122511).**

CLAIM 5

The invention as recited in claim 5 is not rendered obvious by the combination of Saunders, Ortega, Okamura, and Kwentus proposed by the Examiner, as the proposed combination would not result in all of the limitations of claim 5.

Claim 5 describes an outdoor unit for a satellite television ground system comprising: downlink circuitry operative to receive a satellite television signal from a satellite, frequency lock to the satellite television signal, process the satellite television signal, and provide the processed satellite television signal to an indoor unit of the satellite television ground system; and uplink circuitry operative to receive an uplink signal from the indoor unit, process the received uplink signal, and transmit the processed uplink signal to the satellites only when said downlink circuitry is simultaneously receiving said satellite television signal from said satellite and is frequency locked to said satellite television signal from said satellite wherein the uplink circuitry is further operative to receive an uplink control signal from the indoor unit indicating said downlink circuitry being frequency locked to the satellite television signals, wherein the uplink control signal comprises an uplink data signal and an uplink oscillator signal, wherein the uplink oscillator signal is derived from the satellite television signal, and wherein the uplink oscillator signal is derived from a frequency conversion error data from the satellite television signal.

The Examiner proposes a combination of Saunders with the satellite television signals of Ortega and the simultaneous transmission, the reception of Okamura and the outdoor unit of Kwentus wherein the uplink oscillator signal is derived from frequency conversion error data from one of the first or second satellite television signals. (Office Action, pages 5) However, none of Saunders, Ortega, Okamura or Kwentus disclose that the

uplink signal is conditioned on the simultaneous reception and frequency locking of a downstream signal as taught by the present invention as recited in claim 5. As these limitations are nowhere found in the cited references, the rejection is improper.

Kwentus describes “[s]ystems and techniques for receiving a satellite signal wherein the signal is demodulated and iterative decoded. It is emphasized that this abstract is provided to comply with the rules requiring an abstract which will allow a searcher or other reader to quickly ascertain the subject matter of the technical disclosure. It is submitted with the understanding that it will not be used to interpret or limit the scope or the meaning of the claims.” (Kewntus Abstract)

Examiner points to Kwentus paragraph 46, lines 2-3 and 6-9 as disclosing an outdoor unit wherein the uplink oscillator signal is derived from frequency conversion error data from one of the first or second satellite television signals. The specified passage states “[0046] FIG. 5 a flowchart demonstrating an exemplary methodology for computing the frequency offset and synchronizing the symbol clock. In step 502, the processor monitors the output of the differential correlator for a peak correlation value. Once a peak correlation value is detected, the frequency offset is computed in step 504. The frequency offset can be computed by determining the frequency error vector represented by the I and Q components of the peak correlation value. The computed frequency offset can then be loaded into the carrier frequency recovery loop in step 506.” Examiner does not assert that Kwentus discloses that the uplink signal is conditioned on the simultaneous reception and frequency locking of a downstream signal.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 5 is allowable over the prior art of record. Further, claim 5 depends from claim 1, and it is submitted that it is allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

CLAIM 10

With regard to claim 10, Examiner only stated that “[c]laims 10 and 15 are rejected on the same ground as claim 5.” (Office Action page 5, paragraph 8) Claim 10 contains substantially the same limitations as claim 5 expressed in “means” form. As such, the arguments presented above with regard to claim 5 apply here. None of Saunders, Ortega, Okamura, or Kwantus disclose that the uplink signal is conditioned on the simultaneous

reception and frequency locking of a downstream signal, nor providing the processed uplink signal to the satellite while simultaneously receiving the satellite television signal from said satellite and receiving an uplink control signal indicating a frequency locked condition to said satellite television signal from said satellite as taught by the present invention as recited in claim 10.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 10 is allowable over the prior art of record. Further, claim 10 depends from claim 6, and it is submitted that it is allowable for at least the reasons that claim 6 is allowable.

CLAIM 15

With regard to claim 10, Examiner only stated that “[c]laims 10 and 15 are rejected on the same ground as claim 5.” (Office Action page 5, paragraph 8) Claim 15 contains substantially the same limitations as claim 5 expressed in method form. As such, the arguments presented above with regard to claim 5 apply here. None of Saunders, Ortega, Okamura, or Kwantus disclose that the uplink signal is conditioned on the simultaneous reception and frequency locking of a downstream signal, nor providing the processed uplink signal to the satellite while simultaneously receiving the satellite television signal from said satellite and receiving an uplink control signal indicating a frequency locked condition to said satellite television signal from said satellite as taught by the present invention as recited in claim 15.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 15 is allowable over the prior art of record. Further, claim 15 depends from claim 11, and it is submitted that it is allowable for at least the reasons that claim 11 is allowable.

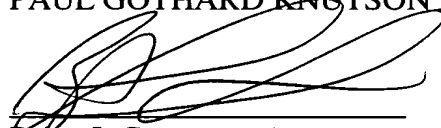
VIII CONCLUSION

None of the cited references teaches all of the limitations of the independent claims. The cited references, either alone or in combination, do not teach the exemplary limitations of transmitting the processed uplink signal to the satellites only when said downlink circuitry is simultaneously receiving satellite television signal from said satellite and is frequency locked to said satellite television signal from said satellite. Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of Claims 1– 15 should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL GOTHARD KNUTSON ET AL.

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Patent Operations
Thomson Licensing LLC
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March 5, 2008

APPENDIX I - APPEALED CLAIMS

1. An outdoor unit for a satellite television ground system comprising:
downlink circuitry operative to receive a satellite television signal from a satellite, frequency lock to the satellite television signal, process the satellite television signal, and provide the processed satellite television signal to an indoor unit of the satellite television ground system; and
uplink circuitry operative to receive an uplink signal from the indoor unit, process the received uplink signal, and transmit the processed uplink signal to the satellites only when said downlink circuitry is simultaneously receiving said satellite television signal from said satellite and is frequency locked to said satellite television signal from said satellite.
2. The outdoor unit of claim 1, wherein the uplink circuitry is further operative to receive an uplink control signal from the indoor unit indicating said downlink circuitry being frequency locked to the satellite television signal.
3. The outdoor unit of claim 2, wherein the uplink control signal comprises an uplink data signal and an uplink oscillator signal.
4. The outdoor unit of claim 3, wherein the uplink oscillator signal is derived from the satellite television signal.
5. The outdoor unit of claim 4, wherein the uplink oscillator signal is derived from a frequency conversion error data from the satellite television signal.
6. An outdoor unit for a satellite television ground system comprising:
means for receiving a satellite television signal from a satellite;
means for processing the satellite television signal;
means for providing the processed satellite television signal to an indoor unit of the satellite television ground system;
means for receiving an uplink signal from the indoor unit;
means for processing the received uplink signal; and

means for providing the processed uplink signal to said satellite only when said means for receiving is receiving the satellite television signal from said satellite and is frequency locked to said satellite television signal from said satellite .

7. The outdoor unit of claim 6, further comprising:

means for receiving an uplink control signal indicating a frequency locked condition to signals from the satellite from the indoor unit.

8. The outdoor unit of claim 7, wherein the uplink control signal comprises an uplink data signal and an uplink oscillator signal.

9. The outdoor unit of claim 8, wherein the uplink oscillator signal is derived from the satellite television signal.

10. The outdoor unit of claim 9, wherein the uplink oscillator signal is derived from a frequency conversion error data from the satellite television signal.

11. In an outdoor unit of a satellite television ground system, a method of providing an uplink communication with a television broadcasting satellite comprising the steps of:

receiving a satellite television signals from a satellite;

processing the satellite television signal;

providing the processed satellite television signal to an indoor unit of the satellite television ground system;

receiving an uplink signal from the indoor unit;

processing the received uplink signal; and

providing the processed uplink signal to the satellite while simultaneously receiving the satellite television signal from said satellite and receiving an uplink control signal indicating a frequency locked condition to said satellite television signal from said satellite.

12. (canceled).

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the uplink control signal comprises an uplink data signal and an uplink oscillator signal.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the uplink oscillator signal is derived from the satellite television signal.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the uplink oscillator signal is derived from frequency conversion error data from the satellite television signal.

16. (canceled).

17. (canceled).

APPENDIX II - EVIDENCE

This appendix should contain copies of any evidence submitted pursuant to §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 (affidavits/declarations/etc.) or of any other evidence entered by the examiner and relied upon by appellant in the appeal, along with a statement setting forth where in the record that evidence was entered in the record by the examiner. Reference to unentered evidence is not permitted in the brief. This appendix may also include copies of the evidence relied upon by the Examiner as to grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal.

CUSTOMER NO. 24498
Serial No.: 10/084,773
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APPENDIX III - RELATED PROCEEDINGS

None.